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FRANK L. HOOGS.....MANAGER

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Wards And Minors

There is something wrong about our law if contests like the Parker ranch case can be carried on to such a conclusion as was reached yesterday, at any expense to a minor under guardianship. In order that her interests might be protected from an attack which the court has held to be utterly groundless she has had the constant services of three leading attorneys for about three months. The cost may only be guessed at, but if the item does not run well into five figures, the legal gentlemen have been unusually modest in their charges.

The case has been in many respects a remarkable one. It has been unusual for the bitterness with which it was contested, the number of charges hurled back and forth by those engaged, the amount of the interests involved, prominence of the parties and the duration of sessions. All these features make it a contest that will be long remembered here. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about it, however, is the fact that the person most concerned has probably never heard of it. The little girl whose estate has had to pay thousands of dollars to keep up the long battle cannot by any possibility be responsible for it. It is a spectacle witnessed in the local courts a number of times within a few years. In quite a number of cases the helpless victim of the litigation has paid the attorneys for both sides of a long struggle over what should be done with his own property. This is a very clear and absurd injustice, and yet it seems to be legal. In the tremendous case so summarily closed yesterday by Judge Lindsay, if his decision had gone in favor of the contestants, it is to be presumed that the little girl's estate would have paid both sides. The guardian had already employed counsel for her. If the guardian's opponents had won, the court would have ordered her estate to pay them as well.

This is all wrong. As the record stands the Parker ranch case is a gross outrage and a disgrace to the courts. It is nothing less than scandalous that courts should be unable better to protect those in their care than to allow estates to be bled in this way. Leaving aside all the recriminations and charges of bad faith and improper motives, and assuming that those who began the contest acted in all honesty and with a desire to benefit the young person who is, as the decision goes, their victim, the only thing that can be said is that the law should protect estates from people who act with such poor judgment. If we had a law requiring persons who attempt suits of this kind in the capacity of "next friend," to put up a bond to indemnify the estate in case the court holds the proceeding to have been unwarranted, there would be far less legal battling over property of helpless wards and minors.

Pneumonia And Its Causes

The prevalence of pneumonia is attracting the attention of the medical profession in various parts of the country. Since the education of the public on the subject of pulmonary consumption, and the better treatment of the disease has reduced, slightly but hopefully, the pre-eminence of that as a cause of death, pneumonia, which even in Honolulu, is usually a close second to consumption in number of victims, is receiving more attention.

One-tenth of all deaths in the United States is chargeable to pneumonia and in Chicago from 1900 to 1905 more than one-eighth of all the victims of disease died from its effects, the death rate greater by one-third than from consumption and 85 per cent more than that from all other acute contagious and infectious diseases combined, including diphtheria, measles, smallpox, typhoid fever, whooping cough, influenza and scarlet fever. In Chicago during the five years there were 8,353 deaths from these diseases, compared with 15,327 from pneumonia.

Dr. Heman Spalding of Chicago, in an address on the subject, after quoting some of the statistics of the disease said: "To escape pneumonia is primarily a question of right living. The presence of the germ is not enough to produce pneumonia. There must be a deviation from the normal standard of health, which depends almost entirely upon the manner of living. We may not be able to avoid the access of the germs which produce pneumonia, but we can in a large measure live so as to rob them of the opportunity to become fatally active."

"Foremost among the habits of mankind which render one an easy prey to pneumonia is drunkenness. The mucous membrane of the air passages and the lung tissue of the drunkard are never equal to the standard of the healthy tissue. Even the moderate drinker has congested mucous membrane and disturbed circulation, which invite pneumonia. The use of tobacco irritates the mucous membrane and when excessively used weakens the heart and disturbs the circulation, interfering with normal excretion."

"Overeating disturbs digestion, interferes with the circulation and overtaxes the organs which dispose of waste material. The excretory channels are not equal to the task of ridding the body of harmful products and the body becomes a fit medium for the development of disease."

"The mouth is the great highway for receiving germs into the air passages. It is more than that; it is the convenient receptacle for the cultivation of disease-producing germs. Food accumulated between the teeth and kept at body temperature is a rich soil for pneumonia germs. An unclean mouth will readily furnish material for the destruction of its owners."

Briefly summarized Dr. Spalding urged the following evils to be avoided and precautions to be taken to keep the vital resistance of the body up to the normal standard:

Drunkenness; foremost among all the habits of mankind that aid in the propagation of the disease. Congested mucous membranes offer ideal soil for the germ.

Overeating; disturbs digestion, interferes with circulation.

Failure to keep mouth and teeth clean; convenient lodging places for the ever present germ are afforded.

Overheated houses; make persons too susceptible to outdoor cold; light clothing, including underwear, should be worn indoors.

Breathing through the mouth; bad for many reasons. Frequent baths will keep the skin active and free from effete material.

That pneumonia is more prevalent and more fatal in the city than in the country Dr. Spalding believes to be because city people live in closer quarters and come in more frequent contact with infected persons. This belief is in accord with the result of the investigations made by the Director of the Laboratory, Dr. J. F. Biehn, who has demonstrated that, while the individual inoculation of the pneumococcus from a given healthy person may be innocuous, the inoculation of the coccus from two or more healthy individuals is unfailingly virulent.

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The Hawaii Herald says: "Hilo wants a county jail more than it does other things." There is no accounting for tastes.

The Advertiser still insists that Dr. Kincaid's Mohonk address was about "as reprehensible an attack as has been made upon Hawaii for years." Yet there is very little in it that has not appeared in substance editorially in the Advertiser.

"It is untrue that contract labor here was slavery, that charge having been officially refuted in documents issued by the United States Government."—Advertiser.

But the penal enforcement of labor contracts contained the very essence of slavery and came to an end in Hawaii, simply because it was in conflict with the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the amendment that abolished slavery in the United States.

The Advertiser will not discredit Dr. Kincaid for his Mohonk address, with anyone who reads the address.

"Gambling received three knockout blows from Judge Whitney yesterday morning."—Advertiser.

This is work of supererogation; one knockout blow is enough.

"Collins professes that he could have learned the whole body of Canadian criminal law in three weeks and gone to practicing there, but that jurisprudence did not inspire him with enthusiasm, because, as he says, it is 'too simple and not scientific like ours,' and therefore not so well calculated to give scope to his peculiar talents," says the San Francisco Examiner, in referring to the accused bigamist recently extradited from Canada. Probably Collins did not intend to do so, but he paid what most laymen will consider a tribute to Canadian law.

The beautiful date palm in the Capital grounds is at present bearing a fine crop of its golden fruit; but alas, the small boy has not the chance at it that he has at the mangoes owing to the great height from the ground. The best that he can do is to wait for wind falls of occasional dates or for those which are knocked down by the birds which seem to be enjoying the fruit immensely.

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Journal, the Illustrated London News, is authority for the story that "real society" has received a terrible shock. The Princess of Wales is having her only daughter taught to ride astride! While a few daring women have had the courage of their convictions and have ridden astride in England, they have never been regarded as in good form, it seems. The practice has been looked upon as not exactly immoral, but unusual, like asking for more soup. Now that the Princess of Wales has set her seal of approval on the eminently sensible manner of riding, and has reinforced it with her opinion that the method is better for women, it may safely be expected that the haughty British matron will come into camp.

TOPICS IN BRIEF.

The policy-holder worth doing at all is worth doing well.—New York World. Perhaps it is only a coincidence that kerosene rose steadily during the week preceding the day Mr. Rockefeller called the happiest of his life.—Chicago News.

Probably,—France and Germany have come to an agreement over Morocco. It is confidently expected that ultimately Morocco will also agree.—Detroit Journal.

Mr. Depew says he is opposed to insurance companies making contributions. Of course, he does not refer to contributions to individuals.—Los Angeles Express.

Hereafter the packers themselves must pay for the inspection of meats. You are entitled to one guess as to who will pay the packers.—The Chicago Tribune.

Greene and Gaynor say that they expect to receive justice in the American courts. This explains why they have been so unwilling to come back.—The Atlanta Journal.

There is still some mystery about The cry now in Russia is equality for all—dukes and peasants to be put on the same plane. From the stories told about the dukes, some of the peasants might reasonably object.—The Baltimore American.

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